



**The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria)**

**MINUTES**

**April 26, 2021, 7:30 p.m.**

Trustees Present: Jordan Watters, Board Chair, Elaine Leonard, Vice-Chair, Nicole Duncan, Tom Ferris, Angie Hentze, Diane McNally, Ryan Painter, Rob Paynter, Ann Whiteaker

Administration: Shelley Green, Superintendent of Schools, Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer, Deb Whitten, Deputy Superintendent, Colin Roberts, Associate Superintendent, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer, Chuck Morris, Director, Facilities Services, Andy Canty, Director, Information Technology for Learning, Lisa McPhail, Communications and Community Engagement Manager, Vicki Hanley, Recorder

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**A. COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

**A.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territories**

Chair Watters recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn and we do our work.

**A.2 Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by** Trustee Ferris

**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the April 26, 2021 agenda be approved with the following additions:

**C.2 Trustees' Reports**

C.2.b Trustee McNally - Indigenous Nations Education Council  
Representative Report

## **H.2 Notice of Motions**

H.2.a Trustee McNally - May 10, 2021 Operations Policy and  
Planning Committee Meeting

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **A.3 Approval of the Minutes**

- a. Approval of the March 29, 2021 Regular Board Minutes

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

**Seconded by** Trustee Painter

That the March 29, 2021 Regular Board Minutes be approved with  
the following amendment:

C.12 - Letter from Songhees Nation to SD61 - amend date to read  
March 4, 2021

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by** Trustee Ferris

That the March 29, 2021 Regular Board minutes be approved, as  
amended.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

- b. Approval of the April 13, 2021 Special Board Minutes

**Moved by** Trustee Ferris

**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the April 13, 2021 Special Board Minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **A.4 Business Arising from the Minutes**

Trustee Duncan referred to the March 29, 2021 Board meeting minutes and requested an update with respect to the progress in receiving permission from the Chief of Songhees Nation to post their letter of March 4, 2021. Superintendent Green responded and advised that she has reached out to the Nations but has not received a response or permission to post their letter.

#### **A.5 Student Achievement**

a. Macaulay Elementary School

Chair Watters welcomed Josee Paris, Principal of Macaulay Elementary School.

Principal Paris introduced Vice-Principal, Suzanne Weckend and teacher, Katrinka Karpes. Principal Paris spoke to school data and Ms. Karpes provided a presentation with respect to the nature walks she incorporates into her classrooms and how it benefits her students.

Chair Watters thanks Principal Paris, Vice- Principal Weckend and Ms. Karpes for attending and presenting to Trustees.

#### **A.6 District Presentations**

None

#### **A.7 Community Presentations**

a. GVTA Mentorship Program Committee

Heidi Fowler and Lena Palermo, co-facilitators of the GVTA Mentorship Program Committee, attended the Board meeting to present to Trustees an update and overview of the program and how it benefits many mentors and mentees in the District.

b. Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, SD61 Parent

Dr. Oppenheimer attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the proposed 2021-2022 budget and more specifically to the cuts to school counsellors, Education Assistant's and music. Dr. Oppenheimer urged parents to reach out to their local MLA's and government to request more funding for school districts.

c. Paula Marchese, SD61 Parent

Ms. Marchese attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about how her child has benefited from the music programs, school counsellors and Education Assistant's in the District and to advocate for all vulnerable students in the District who depend upon these programs.

- d. Shari Worsfold,

Ms. Worsfold attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the reading recovery program in the District and how it impacts student and encouraged Trustees to keep this in the literacy plan.

- e. William Reid, SD61 Student

William Reid, a grade 12 student in the District, attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about his experience being involved in the many music programs, along with the benefits and impacts that the programs have on students and their mental health.

- f. Robin Toszczak, SD61 Reading Recovery Teacher

Robin attended the Board meeting to speak to Trustees about the benefits of the reading recovery program in the District and urged Trustees to re-think cutting this program.

#### **A.8 Recess/Break**

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee Hentze

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) take a recess break at 8:51 p.m.

**Motion Carried**

Chair Watters reconvened the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

#### **B. CORRESPONDENCE**

**B.1 March 31, 2021, BCSTA to Minister of Education, School Life Cycle Funding**

**B.2 April 1, 2021, SD33 to Minister of Education and Minister of Public Safety, Educational Services in Correctional Facilities**

### **B.3 Budget Correspondence re Proposed 2021-2022 Budget**

## **C. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **C.1 Chair's Report**

#### **a. Chair's Report**

Chair Watters presented the report and provided some highlights.

Trustee Paynter requested an update with respect to the Minister of Education stating on CBC that she had reached out to the District. Chair Watters responded that she had not heard from the Minister but did recommend that she invite local MLA's to meet with herself, Vice-Chair Leonard, Secretary-Treasurer Morris and Superintendent Green, with regards to the District budget and the process.

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to invite our local MLA's, Minister Mitzi Dean, Minister Rob Fleming, Minister Lana Popham, Minister Murray Rankin and Parliamentary Secretary Grace Lore - to a briefing on the SD61 Budget.

For (6): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (3): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

**Motion Carried (6 to 3)**

#### **b. Annual Workplan: May**

Chair Watters presented for information, the Board Work Plan for May 2021.

### **C.2 Trustees' Reports**

#### **a. Trustee Paynter**

Trustee Paynter presented the report for information and stated that it was a follow up explanation to his verbal resignation from the Audit Ad Hoc Committee in March.

- b. Trustee McNally

Trustee McNally advised that there had been no meetings for her to attend as the representative for the Indigenous Nations Education Council and highlighted what she has been reading.

## **D. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **D.1 Education Policy and Directions Committee**

- a. April 6, 2021 meeting

The draft minutes from the April 6, 2021 Education Policy and Directions Committee meeting were provided for information.

### **D.2 Operations Policy and Planning Committee**

- a. April 12, 2021 meeting

The draft minutes from the April 12, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee meeting were provided for information.

- b. Recommended motions from the April 12, 2021 meeting

- a. Draft Child Care Policy 1330

Trustee Paynter registered a pecuniary conflict of interest and excused himself from discussion and voting for the following agenda item.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) disseminate the draft Child Care Policy 1330 out for feedback.

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with a question being asked about the Child Care Handbook referenced under point #4.3 of draft Policy 1330. Secretary-Treasurer Morris advised that the handbook has been completed and will accompany the draft Policy when it is distributed for feedback.

**Amendment:**

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct staff to include the Child Care

Handbook referenced under point #4.3 of Draft Policy 1330, *Child Care*, when distributing the draft for feedback.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) disseminate the draft Child Care Policy 1330, including the draft Child Care Handbook, out for feedback.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

b. George Jay Naming Committee - Draft Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the George Jay Naming Committee were presented.

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the George Jay Naming Committee Terms of Reference, as presented.

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Abstain (2): Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

**Motion Carried (7 to 0)**

**D.3 Revised Bylaw 9360, General Meeting of the Board**

Trustee McNally stated that she had several amendments to suggest with regards to revised Bylaw 9360, General Meeting of the Board. Chair Watters advised that Trustees would go through each suggested amendment separately.

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Paynter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9360, General Meeting of the Board, under point #8:

8. In the event that the Board may fail to conclude the business of the agenda by the time of adjournment the Chair may ask the board to

prioritize the remaining agenda items. Agenda items not concluded at the meeting, will be placed on the next month's agenda, and given priority to occur before new business, if a Special meeting is not called to address unfinished business.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees and by consensus it was agreed that under point #10 the word "*approved*" shall be replaced with "*adopted*" and under point #11.A the word "*approval*" shall be replaced with "*adoption*."

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Whiteaker

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9360, *General Meeting of the Board*, under point #14:

14. In accordance with Section 67 of the *School Act*, ~~the Chair may allow~~ Trustees ~~to~~ may participate in or attend a meeting of the Board by telephone or other means of communication if all Trustees and other persons participating in or attending the meeting are able to communicate with each other. Such attendance shall only be permitted where Trustee participation is prevented by extraordinary circumstances and can be accommodated by staff.

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (2): Trustee Leonard, and Trustee Ferris

**Motion Carried (7 to 2)**

**Moved by** Trustee Paynter

**Seconded by** Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9360, *General Meeting of the Board* by adding a new #12 and shifting all other points down:

12. All votes will be recorded in the Regular board meeting minutes with the Trustee's name and yes, no or abstain. Absent Trustees' names will be recorded as absent for the vote.



For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, Trustee Painter, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (2): Trustee Leonard, and Trustee Ferris

**Motion Carried (7 to 2)**

**Moved by** Trustee Paynter

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) amend Bylaw 9360, General Meeting of the Board, under point #13:

#13. An electronic copy of the General Meeting Agenda will be made available to the media, partner groups and the public (website) through the Secretary-Treasurer's three days before the meeting. **All Staff and Trustee presentations will be provided in the agenda package.**

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Painter

**Motion Defeated (4 to 5)**

**Moved by** Trustee Whiteaker

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the motion "*That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve revised Bylaw 9360, General Meeting of the Board*" be tabled until September 2021, after the work has been completed with the governance specialist.

For (4): Trustee Duncan, Trustee McNally, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

Against (5): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, and Trustee Painter

**Motion Defeated (4 to 5)**

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by** Trustee Painter

That revised Bylaw 9360, *General Meeting of the Board* be:

Read a second time the 26th day of April, 2021;

For (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Painter

Against (2): Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

**Motion Carried (7 to 2)**

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard

**Seconded by** Trustee Painter

That revised Bylaw 9360, *General Meeting of the Board* be:

Read a third time, passed and adopted the 26th day of April, 2021.

For (6): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee McNally, and Trustee Painter

Against (3): Trustee Duncan, Trustee Paynter, and Trustee Whiteaker

**Motion Carried (6 to 3)**

#### **D.4 Recess/Break**

**Moved by** Trustee Duncan

**Seconded by** Trustee Painter

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) take a recess break at 10:10 p.m.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

### **E. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORTS**

Chair Watters called the meeting back to order at 10:13 p.m.

#### **E.1 Superintendent's Report**

- a. Monthly Report

This agenda item was not discussed and has been moved forward to the May 17, 2021 Board meeting agenda.

- b. 2021-22 School Calendar

**Moved by** Trustee Leonard  
**Seconded by** Trustee Ferris

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) approve the following 2021/2022 school calendar dates:

2021/2022 School Calendar\*

School Opening 2021	September 7,
First non-instructional day 2021	September 27,
Thanksgiving	October 11, 2021
Second non-instructional day (Province wide)	October 22, 2021
Remembrance Day 2021	November 11,
Third non-instructional day 2021	November 12,
Schools close for Winter vacation 2021	December 17,
Schools re-open after Winter vacation	January 4, 2022
Fourth non-instructional day 2022	February 18,
Family Day 2022	February 21,
Schools close for Spring vacation	March 18, 2022
Schools re-open after Spring vacation	April 4, 2022
Good Friday	April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	April 18, 2022
Fifth non-instructional day	May 20, 2022
Victoria Day	May 23, 2022
Administrative Day and School Closing	June 24, 2022

\*Sixth non-instructional day to be chosen by each school

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

c. Amend the Agenda

Due to the lateness of the hour, discussion ensued amongst the Trustees with a recommendation being made to prioritize the agenda and move items from the Secretary-Treasurer's Report up to be discussed in the Superintendent's Report.

**Moved by** Trustee McNally

**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) prioritize the remaining agenda by moving agenda items: E.2.b Victoria High School Track and E.2.d 2021-2022 Budget Update to the Superintendent's Report for immediate discussion.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

d. Victoria High School Track

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided a response to a question asked by Trustee Paynter at a previous meeting, as it relates to the Victoria High School track project and a Times Colonist newspaper article from October 2020. Secretary-Treasurer Morris clarified that the article was written and issued prior to the start of the Caledonia Project. Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with questions being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris. Trustee Paynter requested that this agenda item be brought back to a future meeting for further discussion.

e. 2021-2022 Budget Update

Secretary-Treasurer Morris provided an update to the 2021-2022 Budget process and stated that Departments were asked to review their expenditures for the 2020-2021 year and identify any unspent funds. This process provided some additional funds to put towards the deficit for 2021-2022. Secretary-Treasurer Morris presented Draft 3 of the proposed budget which included the updated staffing numbers, surplus funds from unspent 2020-2021 budgets and

enrolment numbers and provided three options for Trustee's consideration.

**Moved by** Trustee Hentze

**Seconded by** Trustee Leonard

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) extend the meeting time past 11:00 p.m.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Discussion ensued amongst Trustees with recommendations being discussed by Trustees and questions of clarification being asked of Secretary-Treasurer Morris.

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee Hentze

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct staff to incorporate the following allocations into Draft 4 of the Budget, in preparation for the May 17, 2021 budget debate:

\$482,000 to Music Option 2 as presented: middle schools Grade 6/7/8 Band, Ukulele and Indigenous Drumming; and \$400,000 to Education Assistant staffing.

AND FURTHER;

That the funds be allocated from the April 26, 2021 unallocated surplus update as presented.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

f. Communications Update

This agenda item was not discussed and has been moved to the May 17, 2021 Regular Board meeting agenda.

g. Trustee Questions

This agenda item was not discussed and has been moved to the May 17, 2021 Regular Board meeting agenda.

## **E.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

### **a. Monthly Report**

This agenda item was not discussed and has been moved forward to the May 17, 2021 Board meeting agenda.

### **b. Sundance/Bank Street: Update**

This agenda item was not discussed and has been moved forward to the May 17, 2021 Board meeting agenda.

## **F. QUESTION PERIOD**

Q: Can you please advise if the K-5 Balanced Literacy Support is based on any proven programming or evidenced based successes? If not, what is it based on? How will you measure success of the new supports compared to reading recovery? How will it be rolled out consistently across all elementary schools?

A: Due to the lateness of the hour these questions will be added and answered on the FAQ on the District website for the budget - <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/financial/>

Q: How much operating money in total is in the 2021/22 budget? Please provide the same information for the last two school years.

A: Due to the lateness of the hour these questions will be added and answered on the FAQ on the District website for the budget - <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/financial/>

Q: Could you please clearly identify what the gaps are and how your proposed budget is aimed at those identified gaps?

A: Chair Watters stated that she believed this question stemmed from her comment regarding meeting with local MLA's about the gap in the budget and clarified that she was referring to the deficit of \$7.1 million dollars in the 2021-2022 budget.

## **G. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

### **G.1 Record of In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - March 29, 2020**

### **G.2 Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - April 6, 2021**

### **G.3 Record of Special In-Camera Board of Education Meeting - April 19, 2021**

## H. NEW BUSINESS/NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### H.1 New Business

a. Trustee Paynter - FY 2021-/22 Budget Process

Trustee Paynter presented the motion and rationale.

**Moved by** Trustee Paynter

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the Board of Education of Greater Victoria (School District 61) direct the Superintendent immediately schedule public meetings of the Board to enable the board and district administration to collaboratively develop an annual budget based on the 2020/21 budget allocations through the review of all district (by department) and school level allocations at to include both proposed operating and special purpose funds.

- District department leads and school principals will be expected to submit reports in advance to the Board on resource allocations and expenditures for the past 3 years and rationales for any proposed change in resourcing to be considered in the FY 21/22 budget.
- Meeting topics will be posted in advance to allow for public presentations specific to the agenda topic.
- Meetings schedules will be coordinated to enable the review to be completed, budget proposal finalized and Board bylaw to be passed by May 17, 2021.

For (2): Trustee McNally, and Trustee Paynter

Against (7): Trustee Watters, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Duncan, Trustee Ferris, Trustee Hentze, Trustee Painter, and Trustee Whiteaker

**Motion Defeated (2 to 7)**

## H.2 Notice of Motions

- a. Trustee McNally - May 10, 2021 Operations Policy and Planning Committee

That the Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) direct the Chair to write to the Minister of Education, Jennifer Whiteside, on May 11, 2021, requesting approval from the Minister for SD61 to incur a deficit in the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, as per *BC School Act Section 156 (12)*:

*(12) A board must not incur a deficit of any kind unless the board*

*(a) has the approval of the minister*

## I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 p.m.

**Moved by** Trustee Painter

**Seconded by** Trustee McNally

That the meeting be adjourned.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

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Chair

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Secretary-Treasurer